

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	§	
	§	No. 1:17-CR-154(1)
v.	§	
	§	
ERIC PAUL COLEMAN a.k.a.	§	
LIL E.	§	

PLEA AGREEMENT

The defendant, **Eric Paul Coleman**, the defendant's attorney, **Ryan Gertz**, and the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas agree to the following, pursuant to **Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C)** :

1. **RIGHTS OF THE DEFENDANT:** The defendant understands that accused individuals have the following rights, among others:

- a. to plead not guilty;
- b. to have a trial by jury;
- c. to have guilt proved beyond a reasonable doubt;
- d. to confront and cross-examine witnesses and to call witnesses in defense; and
- e. to not be compelled to testify against oneself.

2. **WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND PLEA OF GUILTY:** The defendant waives these rights and agrees to enter a plea of guilty to:

- Count One of the third superseding indictment, which charges a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute a

controlled substance, namely 280 gram or more of cocaine base a.k.a.

“crack” cocaine;

- Count Three of the third superseding indictment, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), conspiracy to launder monetary instruments;
- Count Six of the third superseding indictment, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), carrying a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense; and
- Count Eight of the third superseding indictment, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 844(h)(1) and 2, use of fire to commit a federal felony — aiding and abetting.

The defendant understands the nature and elements of the crime to which guilt is admitted and agrees that the factual statement the defendant has signed is true and will be submitted as evidence.

3. **SENTENCE:** The minimum and maximum penalties the Court can impose include:

For Count One:

- a. imprisonment for a period not less than ten (10) years, and not to exceed life;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$10 million, or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victims;
- c. a term of supervised release of at least five (5) years, which may be mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the consequence could be imprisonment for the entire term of supervised release;

- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, which must be paid by cashier's check or money order to the United States District Clerk before sentencing;
- e. forfeiture of property involved in or traceable to the criminal offense;
- f. restitution to victims or to the community; and
- g. costs of incarceration and supervision.

For Count Three:

- a. imprisonment for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$500,000, or twice the value of the property involved in the transaction;
- c. a term of supervised release of not more than three (3) years, which may be mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the consequence could be imprisonment for the entire term of supervised release;
- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, which must be paid by cashier's check or money order to the United States District Clerk before sentencing;
- e. forfeiture of property involved in or traceable to the criminal offense;
- f. restitution to victims or to the community; and
- g. costs of incarceration and supervision.

For Count Six:

- a. imprisonment for a period not less than five (5) years, to run consecutively with any other term of imprisonment;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$250,000, or twice the value of the property involved in the transaction;

- c. a term of supervised release of not more than five (5) years, which may be mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the consequence could be imprisonment for the entire term of supervised release;
- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, which must be paid by cashier's check or money order to the United States District Clerk before sentencing;
- e. forfeiture of property involved in or traceable to the criminal offense;
- f. restitution to victims or to the community; and
- g. costs of incarceration and supervision.

For Count Eight:

- a. imprisonment for a period of ten (10) years, to run consecutively with any other term of imprisonment;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$10 million, or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victims;
- c. a term of supervised release of at least five (5) years, which may be mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the consequence could be imprisonment for the entire term of supervised release;
- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, which must be paid by cashier's check or money order to the United States District Clerk before sentencing;
- e. forfeiture of property involved in or traceable to the criminal offense;
- f. restitution to victims or to the community; and
- h. costs of incarceration and supervision.

4. **AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(C)(1)(C):** The parties agree that the following stipulations yield the appropriate sentence in this case:

The appropriate sentence is 300 months' imprisonment. The parties have not stipulated as to what other punishment the court may impose.

The parties understand that the Court may decline to accept this agreement. If the Court does not accept the agreement, the defendant will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the plea.

5. **RESTITUTION:** The defendant understands that restitution may be ordered by the Court. The defendant agrees that restitution in this case is not limited to the offense of conviction and may include restitution for all losses caused by the defendant's criminal conduct, even if such losses resulted from crimes not charged or admitted by the defendant in the factual statement. The defendant waives any defense or objection to any action to enforce the collection of the financial obligations to be imposed in connection with this prosecution, including, but not limited to, all collection procedures authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 3001, 18 U.S.C. § 3664(j)(2), or 18 U.S.C. § 3613(f).

6. **FORFEITURE:** The defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States voluntarily and immediately all of the defendant's right, title, and interest to the following property which is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853 and 881 and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), (G)::

- a. A sum of money equal to one-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in United States currency, representing the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the offense alleged in Count One, conspiracy to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute two-hundred eighty (280)

grams or more of a Schedule II controlled substance, namely, cocaine base, a.k.a. "crack" cocaine, for which the defendant is personally responsible.

- b. A sum of money equal to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in United States currency, representing the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the offense alleged in Count Three, conspiracy launder money instruments of the specified unlawful activity of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute two-hundred eighty (280) grams or more of a Schedule II controlled substance, namely, cocaine base, a.k.a. "crack" cocaine and conspiracy to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of a Schedule II controlled substance, namely, cocaine HCL, for which the defendant is personally responsible.
- c. A Glock 17 9-millimeter semi-automatic pistol bearing serial number BBDR260
- d. A Taurus Millenium G2 9-millileter semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number TJU86548.
- e. A Smith and Wesson SW40VE .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number DYJ3511.

The defendant agrees that the property described in subparagraphs a and b is subject to forfeiture to the government pursuant to the aforementioned statute because the property constitutes proceeds traceable, directly or indirectly, to the illegal activity described in the indictment, was used or intended for use to facilitate the offense described in the indictment, and/or was involved in the money laundering scheme described in Count Three of the indictment. The defendant agrees to fully assist the government in the forfeiture of the listed property and to take whatever steps are necessary to pass clear title to the United States, including but not limited to surrender of title and execution of any documents necessary to transfer the defendant's interest in any of the above property to the United States, and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that assets subject to forfeiture are not sold, disbursed, wasted, hidden, or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture. The defendant agrees not to file a claim to the

listed property in any civil proceeding, administrative or judicial, which may be initiated. The defendant agrees to waive the right to notice of any forfeiture proceeding involving the above described property, and agrees not to file a claim or assist others in filing a claim in that forfeiture proceeding. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of assets. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture of these assets in any proceeding. The defendant agrees to waive any claim or defense under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, including any claim of excessive fine, to the forfeiture of assets by the United States or its subdivisions. Forfeiture of the defendant's assets shall not be treated as satisfaction of any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty this Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to the forfeiture. The defendant waives the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment.

The defendant and defendant's attorney also understand that the government may file motions for preliminary and final orders of forfeiture regarding the property described herein. The defendant and defendant's attorney agree that the government may file these motions unopposed and may state in the certificates of conference for these motions that the defendant has no objection to the relief sought without having to further contact the defendant or defendant's attorney.

Substitute Assets

If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty.

7. **GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT:** The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas agrees not to prosecute the defendant for any additional non-tax related criminal charges based upon the conduct underlying and related to the defendant's plea of guilty. After sentencing, the government will dismiss any remaining criminal charges against this defendant.

8. **VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT:** The defendant understands that upon violation of any provision of this agreement or any Court order or rule, or if the guilty plea pursuant to this agreement is vacated or withdrawn, the government will be free from its obligations under this agreement and may prosecute the defendant for all offenses of which it has knowledge. In such event, the defendant waives any objections based upon delay in prosecution.

9. **VOLUNTARY PLEA:** This plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and is not the result of force, threats, or promises other than those set forth in this agreement.

10. WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL OR OTHERWISE CHALLENGE SENTENCE:

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the defendant waives the right to appeal the conviction, sentence, fine, order of restitution, or order of forfeiture in this case on all grounds. The defendant further agrees not to contest the conviction, sentence, fine, order of restitution, or order of forfeiture in any post-conviction proceeding, including, but not limited to, a proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The defendant, however, reserves the right to appeal the failure of the Court, after accepting this agreement, to impose a sentence in accordance with the terms of this agreement. The defendant also reserves the right to appeal or seek collateral review of a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

11. WAIVER OF RIGHT TO RECORDS: The defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

12. REPRESENTATION OF COUNSEL: The defendant has thoroughly reviewed all legal and factual aspects of this case with defense counsel and is fully satisfied with defense counsel's legal representation. The defendant has received satisfactory explanations from defense counsel concerning each paragraph of this plea agreement, each of the defendant's rights affected thereby, and the alternatives to entering a guilty plea. After conferring with counsel, the defendant concedes guilt and has concluded that it is in the defendant's best interest to enter this agreement rather than proceeding to trial.

13. **LIMITATIONS ON THIS AGREEMENT:** This agreement is only binding on the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting authority. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to release the defendant from possible related or consequential civil liability to any individual, legal entity, or the United States.

14. **ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT:** This Plea Agreement consists of this document and the sealed addendum required by Local Rule CR-49. References in this document to "agreement" or "Plea Agreement" refer to both this document and the sealed addendum. The defendant, the defendant's attorney, and the government acknowledge that this agreement is a complete statement of the parties' agreement in this case. It supersedes all other plea agreements and may not be modified unless the modification is in writing and signed by all parties. No other promises have been made or implied.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH D. BROWN
U. S. ATTORNEY

Dated: _____

8/10/18


CHRISTOPHER T. RAPP
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read or had read to me this plea agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I fully understand it and voluntarily agree to it.

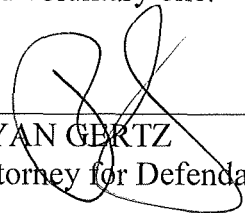
Dated: _____

8/10/18


ERIC PAUL COLEMAN
Defendant

I am counsel for the defendant. I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge and belief, my client's decision to enter into this plea agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

Dated: 8/10/18



RYAN GERTZ
Attorney for Defendant